

Appl. No. : 10/663,192
Filed : September 16, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 18, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 11, 17, and 22 because of informal errors. The Examiner also rejected claims 22 and 28 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 22-24, and 28 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by the McManus et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,572,170). The Examiner also objected to claims 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, and 25-27 for being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, Applicant addresses each of the foregoing issues raised by the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 11, 17 Due to Informal Errors

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the informal errors. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 17 to correct these informal errors.

Rejection of Claims 22 and 28 Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Applicant has amended claims 22 and 28 to correct the unclear language noted by the Examiner. In particular, the phrase "fifth securing component" has been amended to "an inner securing component" to clarify the meaning of claims 22 and 28.

Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 17, and 23 Under 35 USC 102(a)

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 17, and 23 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by McManus. Applicant has reviewed the McManus reference, and notes that in McManus, the securing mechanism couples the *side wall(s)* (that are perpendicular to the main housing wall – "first wall" - that receives the slide-out) of the slide-out to the main housing. Consequently, the securing mechanism of McManus does not allow inhibition of horizontal (and parallel to the first wall) movement of the slide-out relative to the main housing. It appears that the McManus securing mechanism controls the in-and-out motion of the slide-out with respect to the main housing.

In contrast, the claimed device as recited in claims 1, 17, and 23 include a securing mechanism that couples the upper and lower edges (that are generally parallel to the first wall) to locations adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall. Applicant believes that this

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structural and functional difference alone is sufficient to disqualify McManus as an anticipating prior art under 35 USC 102(b).

For the present Application, however, Applicant elects to pursue the features addressed by the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 20, and 25. Thus, has incorporated the limitations of claims 5, 20, and 25 into their respective base claims 1, 17, and 23. By this amendment, Applicant is *not* surrendering any patentable features discussed above in reference to McManus.

Rejection of Dependent Claims

The rejected dependent claims include all of the limitations of their respective base claims, plus additional limitations. Because the base claims 1, 17, and 23 in their amended form are patentable over McManus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejected dependent claims are also patentable over McManus.

New Claims Added

By this paper, Applicant is adding new claims 29-39 and 40-45. New independent claims 29 and 40 are similar in scope to the amended independent claims 1 and 23, but do not require the securing mechanism to couple the lower portion of the slide-out. Applicant believes that the new independent claims 29 and 40 are also patentable, and respectfully requests Examiner's consideration for allowance. No new matter is being introduced by the new added claims.

Summary

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that this Application is now in a condition ready for allowance and respectfully requests the prompt allowance of the same. Should there be any impediment to the allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.


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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11-18-04

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